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AROUND THE NATION

Spy Sentenced to 15 Years

AUGUSTA, Ga.—Otto Attila Gilbert, a naturalized Hungarian who pleaded guilty to trying to buy military secrets from a soldier at Fort Gordon, Ga., was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

U.S. District Court Judge Dudley H. Bowen Jr. accepted a plea-bargaining agreement between Gilbert and federal prosecutors under which Gilbert, 50, pleaded guilty last month to one count of espionage conspiracy and prosecutors dropped three other charges.

The maximum sentence on the conspiracy charge was life in prison, but the plea-bargain stipulated a maximum sentence of 15 years. Bowen said he would recommend that Gilbert not become eligible for parole during his term and that he wished he could fine Gilbert, strip him of his citizenship and deport him.

According to the agreement, Gilbert admitted to conspiring to obtain and transmit top secret documents and information supplied by Army Chief Warrant Officer Janos Mihaly Szmolka.

Szmolka, 43, also a Hungarian native, is a U.S. military intelligence agent who helped set up Gilbert's arrest in April in Augusta.